

Was Jesus Really God?

A great debate raged within the ranks of the early Church fathers regarding the deity of Jesus. Some thought that Jesus was only a human that operated under the influence of the Holy Spirit. Others thought that Jesus was really a Spirit that assumed the appearance of flesh. The truth is that Jesus was a man in the flesh but He was born of divine Spirit. This dual need for the flesh in order to atone for sin and the need to be of divine origin was necessary in order to carry out the mission that the Father gave Him.

The apostle Paul spoke of the need for a second Adam that would live in perfection to offer Himself as a sacrifice for the sin of mankind, Romans 5:14-19; 1 Corinthians 15:45-47. In order for the human part of Jesus to remain sinless, He had to be born without the sin nature, thus the virgin birth of Mary. The nature of sin was passed down from the fathers to the children so the absence of an earthly father would eliminate the passing on of the sin nature, Numbers 14:18.

A number of references confirm the divine nature of Jesus. First, the Father states the case at the baptism of Jesus, Matthew 17:5 NLT: *But even as he spoke, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is My dearly loved Son, who brings Me great joy. Listen to Him."*

Then the apostle John states in John 1:1-4 NLT: *In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through Him, and nothing was created except through Him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and His life brought light to everyone.*

Jesus spoke of a special relationship with the Father, John 10:30 NLT: *The Father and I are one.*" And Jesus repeats this assertion in John 17:21 NLT: *My prayer for all of them is that they will be one, just as you and I are one, Father--that just as you are in me and I am in you, so they will be in us, and the world will believe you sent me.*

The apostle Paul joins the chorus by stating in 1 Corinthians 8:6 NLT: *But we know that there is only one God, the Father, who created everything, and we live for Him. And there is only one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom God made everything and through whom we have been given life.*

The apostle John later writes in 1 John 1:2 NLT: *This one who is life from God was shown to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and announce to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was shown to us.*

It is quite clear from these references that Jesus was divine in His relationship to the Father and during His Earthly ministry. The one that created all things took on the form of a humble man in order to be the perfect sacrifice for our sins. It was Jesus who then rose from the dead to be reseated in the Heavenly realms, Mark 16:19 NLT: *When the Lord Jesus had finished talking with them, he was taken up into heaven and sat down in the place of honor at God's right hand.*

